ITF   Indiana Trails Fund, Inc.

FEE RECEIVED

FEB - 3 2005

3 February, 2005

Mr. Vernon Williams
Secretary
TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Surface Transportation Board
Mercury Building #100
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001
202-565-1674, general
202-565-1592, public

2 / 3 / 05

AB-290 (Sub-No. 257X)

FILED
FEB - 3 2005
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Re: Norfolk Southern RR Abandonment Exemption STB Docket
No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 257X) to abandon an 8.60-mile line of railroad
between milepost RK-130.00 at Converse, and milepost RK-138.60 at
Hartford City, in Blackford County, IN.

Dear Secretary:

This request is filed on behalf of Indiana Trails Fund. ITF is an Indiana Not-
for-profit Corporation interested in preserving corridors for walking and
bicycling transportation. Hereinafter ITF is referred to as "proponent."

Proponent requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as an Interim
Trail Use Condition rather than an outright abandonment authorization
between Hartford City and Converse in Indiana.

A. Request For Public Use Condition

Proponent asks the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public
use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the
abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than
the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except for public use on reasonable
terms. Justification for this condition is: the rail corridor in question will
provide important links in a northeastern Indiana trail system. The time
period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment

authorization. Proponent needs this much time: to begin negotiations with the carrier.

2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

B. Request For Interim Trail Use
The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, proponent also makes the following request:

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME
FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
In order to establish interim trail use and railbanking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. §1247(d), and 49 CFR §1152.29. Proponent is willing to assume full responsibility for management of (the right-of-way), or for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of (the right-of-way) (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any potential liability), and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by and operated by Norfolk Southern RR. The property extends from railroad milepost RK-130.00 at Converse, and milepost RK-138.60 at Hartford City, in Blackford County, IN. The right-of-way is part of a line a railroad proposes for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB- 55 (Sub-No. 643X).
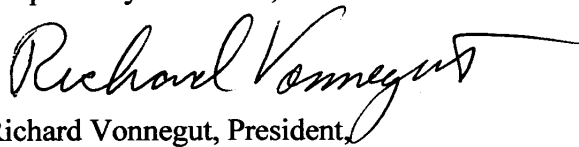
A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

Proponent acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

By our signatures below, I certify service upon:
James R. Paschall, General Attorney, Norfolk Southern Railway Company, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510-2191by U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid, first class, this 2nd day of February 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Vonnegut, President,
Indiana Trails Fund

included:
map of rail lines
map of Indiana
$150.00 filing fee
200.00

cc:
one to CSX
original plus ten to STB
one to be date stamped and returned

JACKSON
GREENE
KNOX
RICHLAND
JEFFERSON
FRANKLIN
GREEN
PENN
JACKSON
NILES
DELAWARE
LICKING
UNION
HAMILTON
WASHINGTON
HARRISON
JEFFERSON

Pennville
Corkwell
Kitt
Center
Ponny
Greene
Blaine
Como
Brooks Cr
New Mt Pleasant
Powers
Ridgeville
Beason Ditch
Bearview
Fairview
Hedkey
Ridgertown
Trenton
Dunkirk
Converse
DELAWARE CO
JAY CO
RANDOLPH CO
Albany
Brinckey
Dovar-Purdue Agricultural Center Forest
2.5 mi (3.9 km)

Millgrove
Laurel Lakes GC
Big Lick Cr
BLACKFORD CO
DELAWARE CO
Eaton
Bracyville
Shidler
Royerton
Mississinewa River
Hartford City
Renner
Shamrock
Lake
Upland
Matthews
Cumberland Bridge
Wheeling
Stockport
Gaston
Anthony
Taylor Univ
Creek

WHEELING PIKE
Contour interval 60 feet

18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31 32 33 34 35
36 37 38 39 40 41
42 43 44 45 46 47

LaPorte South Bend ST JOSEPH Elkhart ELKHART Lagrange LAGRANGE STEUBEN
Valparaiso MARSHALL Goshen
PORTER LAKE Crown Point Plymouth Warsaw KOSCIUSKO Columbia City WHITLEY ALLEN DEKALB
Fort Wayne
JASPER NEWTON Rensselaer PULASKI FULTON Rochester WABASH HUNTINGTON Huntington
Monticello WHITE CARROLL CASS Logansport Peru MIAMI GRANT BLACKFORD JAY WELLS
BENTON Delphi HOWARD Kokomo Marion Hartford City Bluffton
TIPPECANOE Lafayette CLINTON Frankfort TIPTON Tipton DELAWARE Muncie
FOUNTAIN Covington MONTGOMERY Crawfordsville BOONE Lebanon HAMILTON Noblesville MADISON Anderson Winchester RANDOLPH
PARKE Rockville Danville INDIANAPOLIS HANCOCK HENRY New Castle WAYNE Richmond
VIGO Terre Haute Brazil PUTNAM Greencastle HENDRICKS Greenfield RUSH Rushville FAYETTE Connersville UNION
MORGAN Martinsville JOHNSON Franklin SHELBY Shelbyville DECATUR Greensburg FRANKLIN
CLAY OWEN Spencer Bloomington Nashville BROWN BARTHOLOMEW Columbus Napoleon DEARBORN
Sullivan